



English Language Learners with Disabilities

Office of English Language Acquisition Services

Arizona Department of Education

A Student with a Disability means:

A student who is evaluated and found to have a disability as defined in the IDEA or Section 504 and who needs special education and related services because of the disability.

A student may not be found to be a student with a disability if the determinant factor is limited English proficiency.

An English language learner (ELL) means:

A student who does not speak English or whose native language is not English and who is not currently able to perform standard classroom work in English.

An ELL with a Disability means:

A student who is classified as both an English language learner and a special education student.

IEP Team and the IEP

- It is essential that persons with expertise in second language acquisition are members of the team.
- The team must consider the language needs of the child as those needs relate to the child's IEP. (34 CFR §§300.324(a)(2)(ii))
- The team must take whatever action is necessary to ensure that the student's parents understand the proceedings of the IEP team meeting, including an interpreter.

Key Points to Remember

- LEAs must identify and evaluate ELLs with disabilities in a timely manner.
- LEAs must consider the English language proficiency of ELLs with disabilities in determining appropriate assessments and other evaluation materials.
- LEAs must provide to ELLs with disabilities both the language assistance and disability related services they are entitled to under federal law.
- LEAs must determine the most effective approach to instruction through the collaboration of the ELL program and the special education program.

Delivery of Language Services

SEI Program

- SEI classroom
4 hours of English Language Development*
- Mainstream classroom with an ILLP for 4 hours of ELD*

* Push-in

Special education services may be delivered in the SEI classroom or the ILLP classroom

Language services delivered through both the special education program and the SEI program.

- SEI classroom or mainstream classroom with an ILLP for part of the 4 hours of ELD*
- Special education classroom for part of the 4 hours of ELD

Special Education Program

- All language instruction is delivered in the special education classroom because of the impact of the disability